

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07924 300647Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3682
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T AMMAN 7924

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: MINSTATE FOR FORAFFAIRS COMMENTS ON PROGRESS
TOWARD GENEVA

1. MINSTATE IBRAHIM WAS IN CAIRO LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS
WORKING PAPER AND GENEVA WITH EGYPTIANS, AS PART OF ON-
GOING CONSULTATIONS WHICH EARLIER INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH
SYRIAN FORMIN KHADDAM. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM AND POL
CHIEF, OCT. 29, HE SAID HE REMAINS REASONABLY HOPEFUL THAT
SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND TO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON WORKING
PAPER. UNDERLYING PROBLEM HAS BEEN SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB
CONCERN THAT WORKING PAPER WAS JOINT U.S.-ISRAELI DOCUMENT.
THIS HE BELIEVES HAS CAUSED SYRIANS TO HARDEN POSITION
SINCE TALKS IN NEW YORK. EGYPTIANS WANT TO GO TO GENEVA
AND ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE PLO, AS JORDAN HAS BEEN HOPING
TO PERSUADE SYRIA, THAT GENEVA IS BEST CONTEXT IN WHICH
FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH ISRAEL, AS
ISRAEL WILL HAVE WEIGHT OF WORLD OPINION AND
"LEVERAGE OF COSPONSORS" FACING IT.

2. IBRAHIM SAID SYRIANS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN TELLING PLO THAT UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT BETTER NOT TO COMPROMISE AT
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ALL IN ORDER TO GET TO GENEVA AS NOTHING WILL HAPPEN THERE.
IBRAHIM SAID KEY QUESTION AT THIS POINT IS WHETHER
SYRIAN POSITION REPRESENTS TRUE INTENTION NOT TO GO TO
GENEVA UNLESS, AS CLEARLY WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO
ISRAEL, FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES ARE AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE, OR
WHETHER SYRIAN STANCE IS SIMPLY A NEGOTIATING ONE IN ORDER TO
GET BEST POSSIBLE TERMS PRIOR TO GENEVA. HE NOT SURE WHAT

IS REAL SYRIAN INTENTION. PLO MODERATES SUCH AS ARAFAT WANT TO GO TO GENEVA, IBRAHIM ADDED, SO THAT IF SYRIANS DO WANT TO GO, THEIR WEIGHT ON SIDE OF PLO MODERATES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO GET PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION RESOLVED IN MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID HE CONVINCED PLO WOULD NOT FORM GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE AT THIS TIME.

3. MORE DIFFICULT ISSUE WITH REGARD WORKING PAPER, IBRAHIM NOTED, MAY WELL BE THAT OF BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL ISSUES AND SYRIAN FEELING THAT REPORTING BACK TO PLENARY IS ABSOLUTE MUST (TO KEEP EGYPTIANS HONEST). (COURT CHIEF SHARAF MADE SAME POINT TO US LAST WEEK.)

4. HE SAID THAT SAUDIS WILL, OF COURSE, BE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO GET AGREEMENT ON WORKING PAPER. IN THIS CONTEXT HE NOTED THAT CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT SHARAF TENTATIVELY PLANS TO BE IN RIYADH NEXT WEEK HOPEFULLY AT TIME OF VISIT OF SADAT WITH KING KHALID. SITUATION SHOULD BE MORE CLEAR AFTER THAT MEETING. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING JORDANIAN FEELING THAT IT VERY IMPORTANT WORKING PAPER COMPROMISE BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO TUNIS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING FOR FEAR THAT SYRIANS, IF NOT BROUGHT ALONG BY THAT TIME, COULD CREATE SITUATION IN WHICH FURTHER COMPROMISE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

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